GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1536
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2001
SOFTWARE PIRACY
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Will the Minister of INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Chairman, Microsoft, USA duringhis visit to India on 23rd and 24th September 2000, expressed concern over the problem of Piracy faced by the Software industry;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the number of cases of piracy detected by the Government so far and the action taken against them; and

(d) the manner in which the Government propose to deal with this menace?

Answer

MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b): As per National Association of Software and Service companies (NASSCOM)and a press report in the Hindu dated 15.9.2000 such a concern was expressed by Mr. Bill Gates during his visit.

(c): NASSCOM is maintainingan anti-piracy hot line. They have reported that since 1996 more than 70 police raids in various cities and towns have been conducted against people selling pirated software and using pirated software.

(d): The Government has taken following measures to curtail software piracy:

(i) In India, IntellectualProperty Right (IPR)of Software is covered under the Copyright law, violation of which attracts both fine and imprisonment.

(ii) Information Technology Act 2000 has been notified w.e.f. 17th Oct., 2000. This act is expected to help in dealing with software piracy and containing the problem.

(iii) Government has also set up a Copyright Enforcement AdvisoryCouncil, which reviews the progress of the Enforcement of Copyright Act and also advises on measure for better enforcement.

(iv) Police and custom officers are being sensitized on software piracy issues.

(v) Government has been supporting the Anti-piracy campaign of NASSCOMand instructions have also been issued to various Government Departments to only use legal copy of the software.

(vi) Custom duty on Software has been made zero.